

COVER SHEET

November 2005

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

TITLE

Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Gilberton Coal-to-Clean Fuels and Power Project

LOCATION

Gilberton, Pennsylvania

CONTACTS

Additional copies or information concerning this draft environmental impact statement (EIS) can be obtained from Ms. Janice L. Bell, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Document Manager, U.S. Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Laboratory, 626 Cochrans Mill Road, P.O. Box 10940, Pittsburgh, PA 15236-0940. Telephone: 412-386-4512. E-mail: janice.bell@netl.doe.gov.

For general information on DOE's NEPA process, contact Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (EH-42), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0119. Telephone: 202-586-4600, or leave a toll-free message at 1-800-472-2756.

ABSTRACT

This EIS assesses the potential environmental impacts that would result from a proposed DOE action to provide cost-shared funding for construction and operation of facilities near Gilberton, Pennsylvania, which have been proposed by WMPI PTY, LLC, for producing electricity, steam, and liquid fuels from anthracite coal waste (culm). The project has been selected by DOE under the Clean Coal Power Initiative (CCPI) to demonstrate the integration of coal waste gasification and Fischer-Tropsch (F-T) synthesis of liquid hydrocarbon fuels at commercial scale. The proposed facilities would use a gasifier to convert coal waste to synthesis gas, which would be conveyed to F-T liquefaction facilities for production of liquid fuels and to a combined-cycle power plant. The power plant would use the synthesis gas to drive a gas combustion turbine and exhaust gas from the gas turbine to generate steam from water to drive a steam turbine. Both turbines would generate electricity.

The EIS evaluates potential impacts of the proposed facilities on land use, aesthetics, air quality, geology, water resources, floodplains, wetlands, ecological resources, socioeconomic resources, waste management, human health, and noise. The EIS also evaluates potential impacts on these resource areas for a scenario resulting from the no-action alternative (DOE would not provide cost-shared funding) in which the proposed facilities would not be built or operated.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

DOE encourages public participation in the NEPA process. Comments are invited on this draft EIS and should be received no later than 45 days after publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. DOE will consider late comments to the extent practicable. Comments should be addressed to Ms. Janice L. Bell at the address provided above. DOE will conduct two formal public hearings to receive comments on the draft EIS. These meetings will be held at the Shenandoah Valley Junior/Senior High School and the D.H.H. Lengel Middle School. An informal session will be held prior to each meeting for the public to learn more about the proposed project. Meetings dates and times will be published in a separate *Federal Register* notice.